

The Daily Ardmoreite.

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TERRIFIC GASOLINE EXPLOSION THIS AFTERNOON SHAKES THE ENTIRE CITY

NINE KNOWN DEAD AT THIS TIME, WITH MANY MISSING AND PROBABLY BURIED BENEATH WRECKAGE OF BUILDINGS---FIRE FOLLOWS EXPLOSION---SANTA FE FREIGHT DEPOT BURNED TO GROUND AND PASSENGER STATION BADLY DAMAGED---BLOCK EAST OF TRACKS IN RUINS.

An explosion of a 250-barrel tank car of gasoline at 2:20 this afternoon in the yards of the Santa Fe wrecked hundreds of houses and probably killed as many as fifty people. The death list cannot be completed until the bodies are dug from the buildings which were totally wrecked near the explosion. Immediately following the explosion excited people were running in every direction. The glass fronts were blown from stores and scores of people were bleeding. The news came that two other cars were exposed and that no one was allowed near the place of destruction.

Among the dead are Chas. R. Smith, former member of the police force who was standing on Main street near the explosion and was killed by falling stones. M. E. Atkins a drayman was standing on North Washington street almost three blocks from the explosion. Stones from the Arthur Hall cigar store fell upon him. A man named A. G. Gould a fruit peddler was driving across the Santa Fe tracks near the explosion. He was killed outright, his horse was killed and his wagon was blown to pieces. An Indian sitting in his wagon east of the Love Hotel was killed and his team and wagon crushed. The east side of the building fell.

The Santa Fe freight station was wrecked and burned to the ground. The union passenger station is almost a total wreck. The express office was partially wrecked. From the Santa Fe freight station to the Whittington Hotel every building including the Pennington Wholesale Grocery house is wrecked. The east side of the Whittington Hotel was wrecked from the top story to the first floor. On the opposite side of the street the wreckage was almost as bad. Swift's house was wrecked and burned. The 2-story rooming house over the Canton Cafe at the corner of Main and Caddo was wrecked as was also Bob Biggs' restaurant. Shorty Twyford was killed here. A woman was dug from the ruins and was in a manner dead. Some dead negroes were taken out here also. Ladd & Davidson's wholesale house east of the railroad was badly wrecked. Mrs. Clara Davidson was completely covered with falling bricks and the bookkeeper was also in the store. Both were taken out. Mrs. Davidson was hurt but probably not seriously. The bookkeeper was not taken to the hospital.

The scene beggars description. Almost every family had some member in town somewhere and men and women were frantically searching for missing ones. Telephone poles were twisted in two so great was the force of the concussion. Lights will be cut out tonight and the city will be in darkness. Martial law has been declared and Chief of Police Hutchins said this afternoon that many extra men would be appointed to protect merchandise.

Hundreds of people were cut by flying glass and automobiles hurried here and there at great speed hauling the injured to their homes. Surgeons were busy and will probably be able to meet the demands made upon them.

In the Ardmoreite building the glass was blown from the front, doors were wrecked, linotypes were put out of commission and one member of the force was slightly cut with glass. Mrs. James McHughes on North Caddo street was painfully cut. In almost every store someone received cuts from falling glass.

Residences from a half mile around suffered from broken windows. The high school lost almost every window and the roof was damaged.

Mack Walker at Santa Fe freight office and Fred Walker his son the warehouse foreman were both seriously injured.

Dawson Bros. produce house was wrecked and some of the workmen are missing. The situation grows worse as the rescue work proceeds. At least five persons were killed in the Santa Fe freight house. L. L. Hadley and Eb Evans are seriously injured.

PROCLAMATION!

*Whereas, our fair city has suffered an unparalleled misfortune, and
Whereas, the lives and property of our citizens are in great danger,
Now, therefore, I, J. M. Hoard, acting mayor of Ardmore, hereby proclaim said
city to be under Martial Law.*

J. M. HOARD, Acting Mayor.